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WINNING NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOLS *

WHILE the nations of Europe have been destroying millions in lives and billions in money, and irreparably laying waste the results of centuries of progress, it has been gratifying that our own country has held aloof from the strife and has gained by peaceful means what other nations have gone to war for. Gratifying also is the knowledge of a movement tending in the same direction—one that has not been picturesque in its course, but that is far-reaching. The actual results of the program of the American School Peace League may not be realized until the next generation of men who as youths have been trained to know that "peace hath her victories no less renowned than war," whereas wars and battles and campaigns were once glorified in the public-school curriculum.

The work of the North Dakota Branch of the American School Peace League may be said to be emerging from the pioneer state. Circular matter has been mailed to over 5,300 public school teachers in North Dakota during the past year. This has included a booklet describing the work of the American School Peace League, the purpose of the North Dakota branch, a copy of the constitution, a suggested constitution for local branches, suggestions on how to organize such branches and their work, together with a bibliography of material and where it may be obtained. The superintendent of schools in each county of the State was prevailed upon to lend support to this movement.

The propaganda of the league was furthered also by special meetings held in the interests of peace, or at meetings of teachers and school officers. Peace was given a prominent part on the programs of four county teachers' institutes, where methods of organization were outlined in detail. The subject of peace, with the object, plans, and aims of the North Dakota League, were discussed at thirteen other meetings held during the year in various parts of the State before large gatherings of teachers and others interested.

Through the further efforts of the league, the Carnegie Peace Foundation was induced to furnish the necessary money to conduct a course in international relations at one of the most largely attended summer schools in the State. Four such classes were offered at the State Normal School at Valley City during the last summer session, and an attempt is being made to make this a permanent feature in the schools of the State that have for their object the training of teachers. A peace exhibition, recently displayed at the meeting of the State Federation of Women's Clubs and available for any school or organization in the State in connection with its peace program or exercises, was made by the teachers. Twelve schools last year availed themselves of this opportunity.

The North Dakota branch has further lent its support to bring into the State speakers of national repute on subjects pertaining to universal peace. During the year such speakers as David Starr Jordan, Dr. Thomas E. Green, Cora Mel Patten, and Loyal Lincoln Wirt

have interested many large audiences. Various local lecture course associations have found places on their programs for these speakers, and during the past summer this was also done by several of the influential Chautauqua assemblies. At Valley City, for instance, one day of the session was given over to the interests of peace, and called Peace Day. Here nearly seven hundred teachers in a large audience, which also included many children of school age, witnessed a gigantic pageant of school children, a powerful lesson for peace, written and directed by Cora Mel Patten. Following this pageant, these children and teachers listened to an address by Louis P. Lochner, secretary of the Chicago Peace Society, on whose invitation the North Dakota League was represented at the International Peace Congress in Chicago last February.

The aim has been not so much to concentrate in any special locality in an effort to organize as many local branches as possible, but rather to acquaint the great mass of teachers in the State with the purposes of the league, with the hope that they might recognize their opportunity and respond. Approximately one hundred and twenty-five teachers, in all sections of the State, have undertaken to organize local branches in their schools. This number is growing. Several have completed their organization.

It is a patriotic work for men and women that can put its indelible stamp on the next generation of citizens in North Dakota.

ERNST SIEPER (A Letter)

THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

DEAR SIR: We have just learned of the sudden death of Prof. Ernst Sieper, of the chair of English Literature in the University of Munich, on January 6, at the age of fifty-two. Dr. Sieper was one of the genuine apostles of "Sweetness and Light," the most broad-minded and "gemüthlich" of German scholars, taking a place as a clear writer and lucid thinker like that held in England by Prof. Lowes Dickinson. And because of this, he stood with Dickinson firmly for international understandings and against the notion that every diplomatic step must be expiated in blood. Dr. Sieper had taken the lead in the movement towards bringing before the German public the wealth of the best literature of Great Britain. Dr. Alfred H. Fried, in "Friedenswarte," says that "Sieper knew England extraordinarily well. He was a leading member of the movement for Anglo-German understanding, in the interest of which he worked for years. The war could not change his standpoint. He was one of the iron columns of pacifism which war could not overturn, but only strengthen. In the coming struggle, when the war shall end, he should have been one of the leaders."

Dr. Sieper had just published an important paper, "Weltkrieg und Wahrheit," showing the incompatibility of truth and the details of a world war. My own last word from him was a postcard, "Es kommt einmal Frühling" ("Spring is coming some time"). This shows his unfailing hope that the era of senseless rage will pass away, leaving a world wrecked, no doubt, but still throbbing with humanity.

DAVID STARR JORDAN.

* Report of H. G. Arnsdorf, Secretary, delivered at annual meeting of North Dakota Branch of American School Peace League.